

A particular Account of three desperate Battles fought between his Majesty's Troop and the Insurgents, since their Defeat at Wexford, in which the Rebels had Fifteen Hundred Men killed—lost all their Cannon, besides a number of Muskets, Pikes, Swords, &c.—together with an Account of the burning down of two Towns and vast Number of Houses by the Rebels.

Extract of a Letter from a Gentleman in Ireland to his Friend in Scotland.

"Since the late important victories gained over the rebels at Wexford, Enniscorthy, Vinegar-hill, &c. they do not venture to collect in such large bodies as they formerly did—they now seem to be much scattered, and in places where thousands were often seen in a body, small parties, here and there, of about twenty or thirty in a group are only to be observed; therefore the troops, in order to prevent them from committing any acts of devastation, are divided into small parties also, but in such a manner as they can unite at a very short notice.

"It may be sometime before the Rebellion entirely subsides, but I am persuaded, that Peace will soon be restored to many parts of this country, for every means that can be devised to effect this good purpose, is daily tried by the gallant Commanders of his Majesty's troops.

"Whilst the rebels, in many parts, are thus dispersed, Government have very opportunely published a Proclamation, which cannot but produce the best effects. It invites all those persons who, by traitorous machinations, have been seduced, or by acts of intimidation have been forced from their allegiance, to surrender themselves and their arms, and to desert the Leaders who have seduced them. It also grants liberty to persons with any portion of the rebels in arms, to send to the general commanding at the places to which this proclamation extends, any number from each body of rebels not exceeding ten, with whom the general will settle the manner in which they may repair to the towns to be specified, so that no alarm may be excited, and no injury to their persons be offered. On taking the oath of allegiance, they will receive a certificate of protection, which guarantees the safety of the lives and properties of the possessors as long as they continue to demean themselves as peaceable and loyal subjects.

"I presume the accounts I write to you of the proceedings here, arrive in your part of the country as soon as by any other conveyance, therefore the following account of some other engagements which have taken place between the King's troops and the rebels since I wrote you last, dated Kilkenny, June 27, will be new to you:—

On Saturday morning early an express arrived here with information that a large body of rebels who escaped from Wexford, had gained possession of Kill-Edmund and Borris, which they immediately set on fire and reduced to ashes. Major-General Sir Charles Asgill immediately proceeded with strong detachments from this garrison to attack them, but before he could arrive there the main body of the rebels had retired across the country over Kellymount, to the mountain called Ridge, between the Collieries and Old Leighlin, committing horrid devastation, and driving before them all the cattle of the country. Passing thro' Newbridge, they set fire to many houses and stores, and overpowered a small detachment of the Wexford militia, seven of whom and a drummer, they soon after murdered on Kellymount. Our troops, notwithstanding the most lively pursuit, could only overtake the rear-guard of the rebels and their straggling parties, all of whom were routed in a moment, and near 200 of them killed. Night coming on, our troops returned to this garrison, much fatigued, but without the loss of a single man.

"The INVULNERABLE commander Murphy, who was killed during the important battle which took place after the one above mentioned, was an excommunicated priest of the county of Wexford, and carried in his pocket a few musket balls, which he often shewed to his deluded followers, telling them

that they had been fired at him, and rebounded from his body—an invention, by them, generally believed.

On Monday morning our reconnoitring parties observed the Rebel army posted on the bog between John's-well mountains and the ridge before mentioned, about eight miles distant from this city.—They seemed to be at rest, and remained quiet except when relieving their sentinels, till four o'clock, when they were observed to move to the right along the ridge towards Kellymount and New-bridge.—During the evening several false alarms electrified the inhabitants here, but the garrison was left the whole day at rest. Next morning (yesterday) at day-break, Sir Chas. marched with a large force, consisting of two pieces of artillery, part of the Wexford and Wicklow regiments, of the 4th, 5th, and 9th dragoons, of Hompesch's cavalry, the Romney fencibles, and of the Kilkenny, Gowran, Fassadineen, Shillalagher, Desert, Thomastown, Myshall, and Kellishin corps of cavalry. He was joined on the march by the Leighlin-bridge infantry and part of the Downshire militia, with their artillery. about eight o'clock he came up with the Rebel army, amounting to from 5 to 6000 men, advantageously posted on a rising ground in an extensive flat at Kilcommey, near Gore's bridge. Nothing could exceed the joy of the soldiers, after so many fatiguing marches, at last to have a prospect of revenge, and the officers were constantly obliged to restrain their ardour. The engagement began with a terrible fire of artillery, which the Rebels returned with quickness, but entirely without effect.

A very hot fire was kept up near an hour, but unable longer to withstand the impetuosity of the troops, the Rebels gave way, and fled towards the county of Wexford. A horrible slaughter now ensued which lasted for six or seven hours, and did not cease while a rebel was to be seen. Eleven hundred rebels were left dead on the field, among whom was the invulnerable commander, Murphy, and it is probable the remainder of the fugitives will fall again into the hands of General Johnson or General Moore, now at the head of fresh troops in their rout. This victory was so very decisive that we have got possession of all their artillery, amounting to 14 or 15 pieces of different calibre, all their standards, ammunition, and baggage, a vast number of pikes, muskets, swords, &c. and their troop of horses, which were given up to the soldiers.

"A desperate engagement between a party of rebels and some of the yeomanry and Reay fencibles, took place on Sunday morning, the 1st of July, near Clonard-bridge, in which nearly two hundred rebels were slain, and the remainder put to flight.

"Same day the 100th regt. was sent off in carriages on the road towards Wicklow."

July - 179

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